



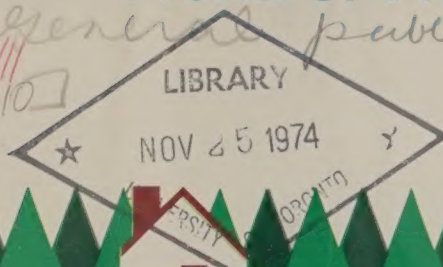
Ontario

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Ontario's thousands of miles of lake-shore offer many natural settings, both picturesque and primitive, for the enjoyment of the people of the province.

Not surprisingly, many cottage colonies have sprung up along the lakeshores, often equipped with hydro-electric power, running water and sanitary facilities.

Unfortunately, in many cases, the land form on which these cottages are built is barely able to support the load imposed on it to absorb and neutralize the waste products generated by the cottage population. Solid and liquid wastes are too frequently contained and treated in a cursory manner, if at all, and many instances exist where disposal of domestic wastes is achieved by simply discharging them into a watercourse.

The results of any uncontrolled pollution might be the deterioration and eventual destruction of many of Ontario's finest lakes. The eventual cost of such pollution would be the loss of priceless recreational areas.

What you can do to help

The fight against pollution of our waterways requires the co-operation of cottagers, cottage associations, tourist resort owners, campers, marina proprietors, and provincial and municipal governments.

But you, as an individual, can do a great deal to protect your water for recreational enjoyment:

Check your septic tank or privy

What kind of soil do you have for subsurface disposal? Is it far enough away from the water? Is it deep enough? Your regional office of the Ministry of the Environment, or the local health unit, can provide you with information and advice.

Check where your waste water drains

Do not dispose of kitchen wastes into lakes and rivers, or empty them on the ground surface. To conserve water install spring loaded taps at the cottage and consider low-volume toilets.

Do your laundry at home

If you must launder at the cottage, use soap flakes or phosphate-free detergents.

Avoid applying insect control materials to water

unless it is essential and you have a permit from the Ministry of the Environment.

Check your cruiser

If it has a head, you require a holding tank. In addition, all boats, by law, must carry a garbage container to be emptied only on shore.

Get together with neighbours to agree on joint measures for water protection

Include your children in pollution control

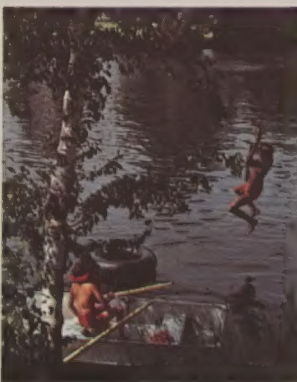
As they grow up, preservation of the environment will become a habit.

Above all, remember the preservation of water quality in our recreational lakes is a multiple responsibility.

Provincial agencies are doing their best . . . are you?

As part of the Ministry of the Environment's survey of cottages in the lakeland areas, survey crews will be visiting cottages seeking a variety of data regarding waste collection, treatment and disposal. They will also take soil and water samples on location for laboratory analysis and evaluation. It's their job to help you. Please make it yours to help them.

Need help with your sewage disposal problem? Contact your local inspector, or *Information Services Branch Ministry of the Environment 135 St. Clair Avenue West Toronto, Ontario M4V 1P5*



What is the danger?

A map of Ontario shows nearly a quarter of a million lakes varying in size from under an acre to the huge expanse of Lake Superior. In many cases the summer population around these lakes has already reached a density which imposes severe strain on the ability of the natural facilities in the area to absorb and withstand the results of such concentrated human activity.

Under normal conditions the natural processes of plant and fish life maintain a balanced ecology in our lakes and rivers. When too much human waste and chemicals upset the balance the normal process is impaired, and water quality suffers.

Septic tanks, which should be emptied regularly, can cause an increasing build-up of wastes in soil. Pit privies on rocks a few feet from a lakeshore and sinks that drain directly into the lake contribute to an unhealthy, polluted environment.

The Ministries of the Environment and Health provide a year-round advisory service to cottagers on the installation of waste treatment facilities. They also check the effectiveness of installed systems. However, the ultimate responsibility to save our natural heritage rests with the individual.

